

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE 25X1X

1. A draft law for the expropriation of cinemas was prepared in the Ministry of Interior of Saxony-Anhalt in January 1948. A copy of the draft was forwarded to the Central Committee of the SED Berlin by Minister Siewert, not in his capacity as minister but as a party functionary, with a request for approval. The draft provided that cinemas in towns of less than 5000 inhabitants be exempted from the expropriation order, but SED requested that this provision be removed. Without further discussion, the draft was altered accordingly and was so presented to the cabinet for adoption without anyone knowing of the change except Siewert and one other minister (name not given) who happened to have seen the original. The cabinet adopted the resolution as it was presented and forwarded it to the Landtag in the same form.

25X1C Comment: This same procedure undoubtedly is used in any new laws with political application, thus giving SED complete control over legislation.)

2. A copy of the draft of the law follows.

DRAFT OF A LAW
 for transfer of cinemas to community property

- I
1. Business property belonging to the owners of cinemas is hereby expropriated and transferred with all rights and obligations to community property.
2. The execution of the expropriation is the duty of the Minister of Interior.
3. Cinemas legally assigned, through competent services after the capitulation, to the occupation power or to legal persons of the USSR are not affected by expropriation.

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II

Business property in the meaning of Paragraph I Item 1 is considered property wholly or predominantly devoted to the cinema, including the real estate belonging to the owner of the business at the moment of its expropriation and directly serving the operation of the cinema.

III

Items of business property which are necessary for orderly continuance of the business are also subject to expropriation if they belong to other persons than those named in Paragraph I Item 1. Real estate is usually necessary for the orderly continuance of the business if it is wholly or predominantly devoted to the business.

IV

Expropriated owners of cinemas and those persons whose items of business property were confiscated under Paragraph III may claim suitable compensation, unless it happens that those involved in this were determined by denazification committees to be Nazi activists, militarists, or war criminals in the sense of SMA Germany Order No. 201 of 16 August 1947.

V

1. Compensation is guaranteed only on application. The petition is to be brought to the Minister of Interior of the Land government. It must contain:
 - 1) Name and address of the petitioner.
 - 2) A critical opinion on the petitioner from the local Antifa-Bloc, which is to be confirmed by the Kreis Antifa-Bloc.
 - 3) Statement of the sum which is asked as compensation.
 - 4) Reasons for the amount of compensation requested.
2. All documents and vouchers which can serve as informational material are to be attached to the petition, especially those documents which relate to the evaluation of the real estate.

VI

1. The Minister of Interior in agreement with the Ministers of Justice and Finance decides upon compensation. If agreement is not reached between the ministers concerned, the Land government decides.
2. The decision of the Minister of Interior of the Land government is final.
3. Regular legal channels are excluded.

VII

The Land government is empowered to transfer the property taken over into community ownership to communities, Kreises, or to a special company.

VIII

The property is intended for and serves for the furthering of cultural life on principles of democratic and public utility. The Land government is permitted to utilize income from property allotted to this purpose entirely or partly for increasing social and cultural welfare in the democratic spirit or to order its use for that purpose.

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The Minister of Interior releases the approval of execution of this law.

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This law goes into force on the day of its publication.
Halle/Saale,(date)

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